

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 ACDA-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
MCT-01 /087 W
-----016260 231450Z /45

R 230945Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4962
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, MARR, LE, SY, PLO

SUBJECT: CHTAURA AGREEMENT IN SOUTH

REF: BEIRUT 4029

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE HAS REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO POSTPONE APPLICATION OF CHTAURA AGREEMENT IN SOUTH FOR 15 DAYS. MEANWHILE, KFUR FRONT HAS CONDEMNED PLO REQUEST THAT ARAB LEAGUE TAKE UP SOUTH LEBANON, AND PHALANGE NEWSPAPER HAS CALLED FOR ABROGATION OF CAIRO ACCORD AS IT APPLIES TO SOUTH. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN, PALESTINIAN, AND LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVES OF TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE MET IN BEIRUT AUGUST 18 TO DISCUSS TIMETABLE FOR APPLICATION OF CHTAURA AGREEMENT IN SOUTH, ACCORDING TO AN NAHAR. MOST PAPERS REPORTED THAT PARTICIPANTS DECIDED APPLICATION WOULD NOT BEGIN FOR

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15 DAYS.

3. ON SAME DAY, KFUR FRONT LEADERS SULEIMAN FRANJIEH, CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND PIERRE GEMAYEL MET AT RABIYA TO DISCUSS SOUTH LEBANON. (FRONT'S FOURTH LEADER, CHARBEL KARRIS, WAS ABSENT. HE ALSO DID NOT ACCOMPANY OTHER THREE LEADERS TO DAMASCUS AUGUST 12.)

4. AFTER MEETING, FRONT ISSUED COMMUNIQUE WHICH SAID PARTICIPANTS HAD DISCUSSED ELIMINATION OF PALESTINIAN ARMED PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON, IMPLEMENTATION OF CHTAURA AGREEMENT IN SOUTH, AND "IMPRESSION" THAT ISRAEL SUPPOSEDLY PROTECTED CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON. (COMMUNIQUE DID NOT, HOWEVER, REPEAT CAMILLE CHAMOUN'S AUGUST 16 EXPLICIT DISAVOWAL OF THIS RELATIONSHIP.)

5. COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR DISAPPROVAL OF PLO REQUEST THAT ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL DISCUSS SOUTH LEBANON AT MEETING IN CAIRO ON SEPTEMBER 3. (PHALANGIST "VOICE OF LEBANON" COMMENTED THAT ONLY GOL HAD RIGHT TO DECIDE WHETHER ARAB LEAGUE SHOULD DISCUSS SOUTH.)

6. SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER FRONT MEETING, CHAMOUN EXPRESSED PESSIMISM ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CHTAURA AGREEMENT IN SOUTH. HE SAID THAT "WE WANT TO BE OPTIMISTIC, BUT STATEMENTS WE HAVE BEEN HEARING . . . DO NOT ENCOURAGE OPTIMISM."

7. ON AUGUST 20, PHALANGIST PAPER AL AMAL WENT EVEN FURTHER AND SAID "THIRD STAGE OF CAIRO ACCORD DOES NOT RESOLVE PROBLEM, SINCE . . . ACCORD PER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MITS PRESENCE OF COMMANDOS AT CERTAIN POINTS IN BORDER VILLAGES." AL AMAL CLAIMED THAT THIRD STAGE SHOULD THEREFORE BE ABROGATED AND CONSIDERED "NON-EXISTENT, AT LEAST IN SOUTH." WHAT IS NEEDED, ACCORDING TO AL AMAL, ARE "GUARANTEES" FOR SOUTH. PAPER DID NOT SPECIFY NATURE OF GUARANTEES OR WHO WOULD MAKE THEM.

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